

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

The following amendments are being made to the amended specification annexed to the International Preliminary Examination Report.

Please insert the following section headings on page 1, after the title and before line 3:

-- BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

(1) Field of the Invention --

Please replace the paragraph on page 1, beginning at line 3, with the following replacement paragraph:

-- The invention relates to a package for containing a plurality of products for heating, in particular food products ~~according to the preamble of claim 1~~, comprising: a container, manufactured from a material for once-only use, provided with at least two compartments shielded from the environment, and at least one passage opening arranged in the package for a medium for reducing an overpressure in the package. The invention also relates to a method for heating a plurality of products ~~according to the preamble of claim 1~~ for heating placed in a single package to different temperatures using a heating source. --

Please insert the following section heading on page 1, at line 23:

-- (2) Description of the Related Art --

Please insert the following section heading on page 2, at line 3:

-- SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION --

Please replace the paragraph on page 2, beginning at line 10, with the following replacement paragraph:

-- The invention provides for this purpose a package ~~according to claim 1~~ of the type wherein the compartments are separated medium-tightly from each other, and the individual compartments are provided with passage openings differing from each other such that overpressure in the individual compartments is maximized at different pressure levels. The temperature will stabilize at a determined value depending on the pressure applied to a product during the heating. Compare for instance the pressure cooker in which a relatively high pressure is realized, resulting in a higher cooking temperature, and a mountain climber who at high altitude already boils water

at 80°C. By now connecting different passage openings (different pressure valves) to the different compartments, it will also be possible to realize different pressures (and therefore also temperatures) in the different compartments. This while the package still only need be heated with a single heating source, so that no complex operations are required for the heating. In addition to food at varying temperatures, non-food products can also be heated in this manner, optionally in combination with food products (for instance a so-called hot towel). In a preferred embodiment the compartments are shielded from the environment by making use of a material layer, such as for instance a transparent plastic foil, so that a view of the products in the container can be provided with minimal use of material. The use of a shielding box according to the prior art is superfluous and makes the present invention more efficient in use as both less material and less energy is required in heating the products. Furthermore the package according to the invention can be heated with all different heat sources known for heating the products and not only in a ~~micro-wave~~microwave oven as disclosed in the closest prior art. --

Please replace the paragraph on page 4, beginning at line 18, with the following replacement paragraph:

-- The invention also provides a method for heating to different temperatures with a heating source a plurality of products according to claim 12 for heating, in particular food products, placed in a single container, by heating with a heating source the container with a plurality of separated compartments provided with the products for heating, wherein an overpressure is created in the compartments which is bounded by passage openings connecting onto the individual compartments such that different pressures prevail and different temperatures occur in the compartments. The package can herein be heated with only a single heating source; not only in a microwave oven, but also in a hot air oven, a warm water bath or other known heat source for heating food products in particular. The package can for instance be readily placed in an oven which feeds heat to the container, where after, provided the package is heated for long enough at a prescribed temperature, the different products in the different compartments are heated to the intended distinct temperature levels without further intervention. After heating, the compartments can be made accessible for a meal by for instance detaching a material layer. It is particularly advantageous here if the material layer can be detached easily (also referred to as

a peel-off attachment of the material layer). This reduces the danger, among others, of hot products leaving the container in uncontrolled manner. The heating according to the invention is highly efficient in relation to the prior art as partially shielding the product to be heated does not occur. --

Please insert the following section heading on page 4, at line 32:

-- BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS --

Please insert the following section heading on page 5, at line 13:

-- DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS --